

CLAIMS:

1. A method of recording information onto a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45); wherein a predetermined part of the recording medium is reserved as a spare recording area (3);
- 5 wherein the information file to be recorded is divided into data packets; and wherein a file writing session comprises the steps of:
- a) recording a data packet in a block of the recording medium (2) in a block writing session;
 - b) examining whether said block is a defective block (45*);
 - 10 c) storing said data packet in an auxiliary memory (20) in an auxiliary writing session if said block appears to be a defective block (45*);
 - d) repeating the steps (a) through (c) for all the data packets in the information file;
 - e) subsequently, in a substitute writing session, copying the data packets stored in
 - 15 the auxiliary memory (20) to said spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2).
2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step (e) directly follows the step (d).
- 20 3. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of information files are recorded on the recording medium (2), the steps (a) through (d) being carried out for each file, after which the substitute writing session of the step (e) is carried out for all the files.
- 25 4. A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the substitute writing session of the step (e) is carried out in response to the receipt of a command to remove the recording medium (2) from the recording apparatus (1) or in response to the receipt of a command to turn off the recording apparatus (1).

5. A recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45);

wherein a predetermined part of the recording medium has been reserved as a spare recording area (3);

5 wherein data packets have been recorded in respective blocks (45) of the recording medium (2); and

wherein the spare recording area (3) contains substitute recordings of data packets which correspond to defective blocks (45*) of the recording medium, as well as a table (M(B)) of bookkeeping data, recorded by means of a method as claimed in any one of the Claims 1-4.

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6. A recording medium (2) as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the recording medium is a tape, said spare recording area (3) of the tape (2) being preferably situated at the beginning of the tape.

15 7. A method of reading information from a recording medium (2) as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, comprising the following steps:

a) copying the data packets stored in the spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2), including the bookkeeping data (M(B)), to an auxiliary memory (20) in a preparatory session;

20 b) examining whether the block address of a block to be read from the recording medium appears in a substitution table comprising bookkeeping data (M(B));

c) reading the data in the block to be read (45) if in the step (b) said block address (B) is found not to appear in said substitution table, and supplying the data thus read to an output (21), but if in the step (b) said block address (B) is found to appear in said

25 substitution table, reading substitute data from the section having the start address (M(B)) in said auxiliary memory (20) and presenting the read substitute data to the output (21);

d) repeating the steps (b)-(c) for all the blocks of a file (f).

8. A recording apparatus (1) for recording information on a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45), comprising:
a control unit (10) having an input (11) for receiving an information signal (S) to be recorded;
write means (4) for writing on the recording medium (2);
auxiliary memory means (20) associated with the control unit (10);

wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to record (12) a data packet in a block of the recording medium (2) or, if said block is found to be a defective block (45*), to store said data packet in a section of the auxiliary memory (20); and

wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to copy any data packets stored in the auxiliary memory (20) to a predetermined spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) when all the data packets of an information file have been recorded.

9. A recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, further including buffer memory means (13₁; 13₂); wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to store each data packet recorded (12) in a block (45) of the recording medium (2) also in the buffer memory (13₁; 13₂), and to copy (15) said data packet from the buffer memory (13, 13₂) to the auxiliary memory (20) if the relevant block is found to be a defective block (45*).

10. A recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to also store bookkeeping data (M(B)) in the auxiliary memory (20), which bookkeeping data defines a relationship between block numbers (B) of defective blocks (45*) and start addresses (M) of sections in the auxiliary memory (20) where data packets have been stored temporarily.

11. A recording apparatus as claimed in any one of the Claims 8-10, wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to copy (16) any data packets stored in the auxiliary memory (20) to the predetermined spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) only when a command is received to enable ejection of or to eject the recording medium (2), or when a command is received to turn off the apparatus (1).

12. A read apparatus for reading information from a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45) and having a spare recording area (3), comprising:

a control unit (10) having an output (21) for outputting an information signal read (Q);

read means (4) for reading the recording medium (2);

auxiliary memory means (20) associated with the control unit (10);

wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to initially copy data packets, including bookkeeping data (M(B)), stored in the spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) to the auxiliary memory (20);

wherein the control unit (10) is further adapted to read the data from a block (45) and supply (18) said data to the output (18) if a block address (B) of said block does not appear in said substitution table, and to read substitute data from the section having start address (M(B)) from said auxiliary memory (20) and supply (19) said substitute data to the output (21) if the block address (B) is found to appear in said substitution table.

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